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MVA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

By

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A thesis

submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Visual Arts

in

Sculpture

Department of Art and Design

Edmonton, Alberta

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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>SIZE</u>
Tree IV	1986	Mixed Media	131cm x 30cm x 18cm
Wave V	1986	Mixed Media	70cm x 122cm x 39cm

LIST OF SLIDES

1. <u>TREE I</u>	Mixed Media	88 cm x 30 cm x 20 cm	1985
2. <u>TREE II</u>	Mixed Media	92 cm x 22 cm x 19 cm	1985
3. <u>TREE III</u>	Mixed Media	104 cm x 31 cm x 15 cm	1986
4. <u>TREE IV</u>	Mixed Media	131 cm x 30 cm x 18 cm	1986
5. <u>WAVE I</u>	Mixed Media	40 cm x 81 cm x 30 cm	1986
6. <u>WAVE II</u>	Mixed Media	45 cm x 80 cm x 30 cm	1986
7. <u>WAVE III</u>	Mixed Media	43 cm x 80 cm x 30 cm	1986
8. <u>WAVE IV</u>	Mixed Media	50 cm x 80 cm x 33 cm	1986
9. <u>WAVE V</u>	Mixed Media	70 cm x 122 cm x 39 cm	1987

Visual art has the capacity to synthesize world views into symbolic form. When art does less than that, it is not fulfilling its potential. The process of making sculpture is for me a conversation between myself and the work; as I visualize my world view in the sculpture, the work crystallizes my ideas and opens new avenues of thought. The world view I hold is religious in that it relies on the belief that Truth permeates man's life giving him a direction, a focus, and a responsibility.

Ancient sculpture has been a most important source of inspiration for me. Egyptian, Buddhist, and Cycladic works carried in themselves something which was essential to the societies that created them. Such art reflected man's need to find order and meaning within the very mysterious cycle of birth, life, and death. Ancient sculpture brought forth with clarity the religious values of societies and organized them into tangible wholes. The spiritual drive that originated in the life and thought of the individual was expressed in a collective form in works of art.

The holistic aspect of ancient sculpture is no longer predominant in modern art. In losing the element of synthesis, Art has lost its vitality for the majority of society. Art is no longer essential, it is a high quality pastime. If Art continues to delete rather than relate, to deal with the specific rather than the whole, to discuss issues rather than essences, and to separate rather than integrate, then I can not imagine any possibility other than that art will continue to be reduced to a very low level of social relevance. Just as archetypal symbols are not literal--they encompass too much to

be exhausted in a verbal explanation, yet are not empty and meaningless --so art is potentially full and inclusive, not narrow and exclusive.

I reject what I see as fragmentation in modern art, and in my work seek to find a center. I hope to distill what in my search I deem to be essential.

In my comparative study of religions, I have found symbols to be powerful synthesizing media. Yet a mechanical application of symbols would defy their essence. I have had to rely on hunches and dreams to provide me with symbols that are truly personal.

In one instance I have dealt with the symbol of a tree. In mythology the tree often represents the connection between heaven and earth. This symbol has for me connotations with the column and with the center. The tree series was also influenced by menhirs, creating references to ancient man and the origins of civilization. In the tree series there is a strong element of striving counteracted by a sense of peace and serenity.

The later series of sculptures entitled Waves originated from two sources: one is a series of dreams during which I find myself gradually submerged in water, the other is my feeling about the ocean which derives from a personal experience. Perhaps the fact that these sculptures represent at once water and a female figure signifies my need to become one with the water.

Just as a symbol can never be completely circumscribed, so I can not fully define my work. I do what feels essential, all that synthesizes what I hope is best in me and the world view that I hold. If my work could affect a few people in a positive, encouraging and peaceful direction then I would be fully rewarded.

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